



United States Department of Agriculture

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

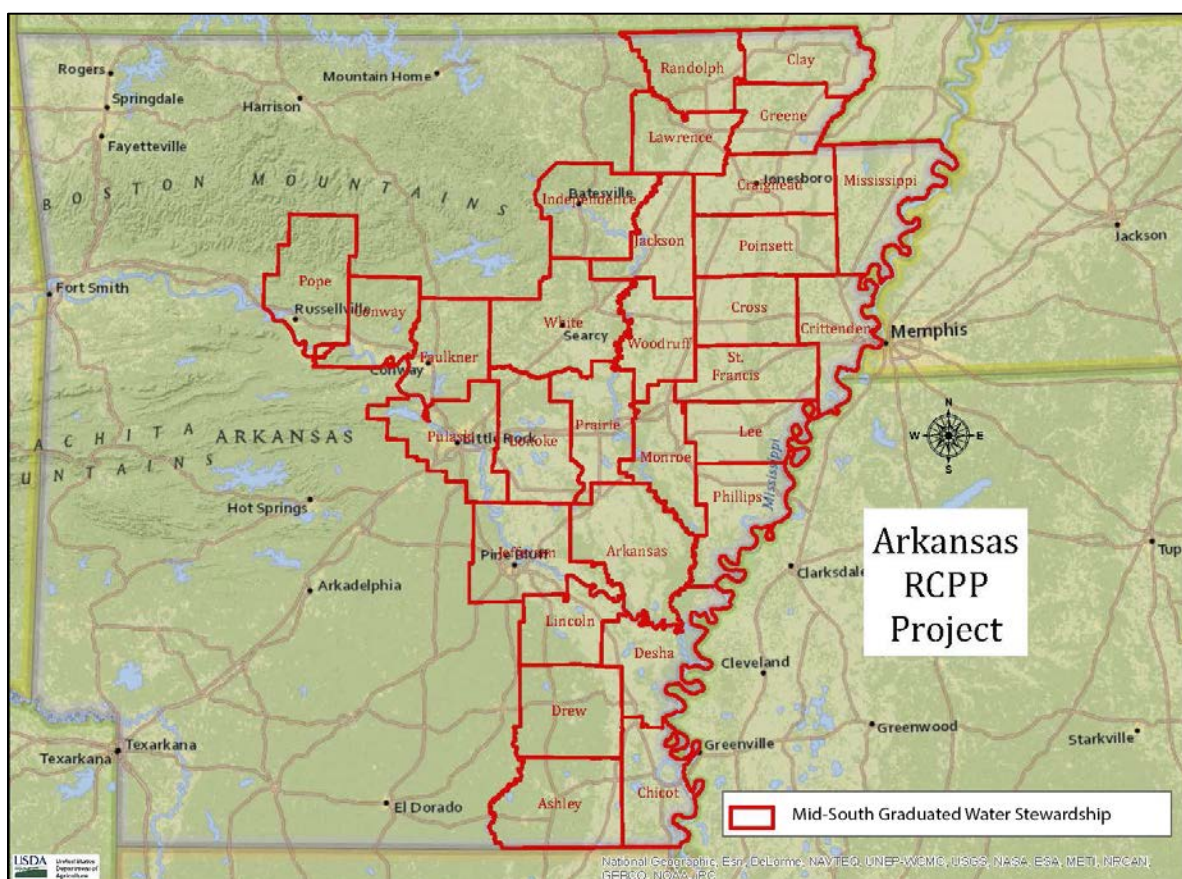
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Web: <http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov>

FACT SHEET

January 2022

2020 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Mid-South Graduated Water Stewardship Program



The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a new, comprehensive and flexible program that uses partnerships to stretch and multiply conservation investments and reach conservation goals on a regional or watershed scale.

Project Overview

The Mid-South Graduated Water Stewardship Program Renewal RCPP Project is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers for addressing insufficient water and water

quality concerns on working ricelands in 30 Arkansas counties.

The project builds on the success of the original 2017 Mid-South Graduated Water Stewardship project and will again provide NRCS funding to rice producers for the planning, design and delivery of conservation practices on working ricelands. All participants will implement the irrigation water management practice (449).



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Arkansas

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2020 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Mid-South Graduated Water Stewardship Program

Arkansas counties in the project are: Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Clay, Conway, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Francis, White, and Woodruff. The project also targets ricelands in Missouri, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Resource Concerns Addressed by the Project

- Source Water Depletion
- Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
- Inefficient Energy Use
- Terrestrial Habitat

Project Goals

- Implement conservation practices and management regimes that conserve the five priority resource concerns
- Decrease groundwater dependency through improving irrigation practices and efficiency across the targeted ricelands
- Implement practices to ensure ricelands continue to serve as an indispensable component of winter habitat for waterfowl in North America

Conservation Practice Funding

NRCS will provide financial assistance for a systems approach using approved conservation practices for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility, adjusted gross income, and all other program criteria for participation must be met to participate in this initiative. Agricultural lands are eligible for enrollment in the initiative.

Approved Land Management Practices for RCPP

- 329 - No-Till
- 340 - Cover Crop
- 345 - Reduced Till
- 410 - Grade Stabilization Structure
- 430 - Irrigation Pipeline
- 436 - Irrigation Storage Reservoir
- 443 - Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface
- 447 - Irrigation Tailwater Recovery
- 449 - Irrigation Water Management
- 464 - Irrigation Land Leveling
- 533 - Pumping Plant
- 587 - Structure for Water Control

- 590 - Nutrient Management
- 595 - Integrated Pest Management
- 646- Shallow Water Development and Management

How to Apply for RCPP

NRCS and associated conservation partners will deliver this program collaboratively. Applications may be obtained and filed at the local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service field service center.

For More Information

If you need more information about RCPP, please contact the field office in your county or visit the NRCS Arkansas Web site at: www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov.

Rice Stewardship Partnership Staff

Staff are available to NRCS offices and producers to assist with the application and contract process. Contact information below.

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